SUMMARY OF THE SIEC INVENTORY OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

Responding agencies. The response rate represents 83% of the state's population. The survey remains active to facilitate ongoing planning.
- 197 agencies completed 2 or more sections of the survey.
- Approximately 150 agencies completed all sections of the survey.
- 25 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) participated and completed survey on behalf of their agencies.
- Response by agency mission.

#	Agency Mission
65	Fire departments
56	Police departments
21	Sheriff's departments
25	PSAPs
6	Local emergency management centers
3	EMS
4	Utilities
17	Other

Radio systems.
- Types of radios used in Washington.
  - 39% of radios are VHF.
  - 5% of radios are UHF.
  - 55% of radios are 800 MHz.
  - 1% of radios are low band.
  - 25% of the agencies reported radios 10 years old or more.
- Approximately 90% of radios are not P25 capable. P25 is a standard being promoted by the Office of Domestic Preparedness as an approach to interoperability and is one of the approaches being considered by the SIEC.
- Coverage.
  - Mobile radio coverage satisfaction was reported at 3.7 on a scale of 1 to 5.
  - Portable radio coverage satisfaction was reported slightly lower than mobile radio coverage.
  - Coverage was reported as the highest operational obstacle.
- 23% of responders indicated they did not have sufficient capacity for events such as:
  - Fires
  - Natural disasters
  - Weather
  - Simultaneous events
- Only 19% of the responders have gateway or cross-patch interconnect capabilities and only 16% reported cross-patching as effective. These are methods for allowing interoperability between radios operating on different frequency bands.
- Mutual aid.

- o 7% of the respondents indicated they do not have mutual aid calls.
- o Agencies that do have mutual aid calls reported that approximately 10% of their calls involve mutual aid.
- o 66% of respondents reported dispatch center intervention is required in a mutual aid situation or large scale operation.
- Summary of radio systems.
  - o More subscriber equipment on 800 MHz than UHF/VHF.
  - o Age of equipment will become a factor in equipment/systems upgrades.
  - o Capacity and coverage may continue to be an issue with existing systems.
  - o Interoperability is limited.

Paging and cellular phones.
- Due to the use of private paging technologies, the state solution may include paging systems.
- As indicated in the previous surveys there is a high dependence on cellular technology.

Mobile data.
- Agencies that do not use data routinely do not see the need to have data
- Those agencies using data are finding that data is becoming more mission critical; however, they still have heavy dependence on voice
- 26 agencies use commercial systems

Funding.
- Local funds and federal grants will be the largest source of funding for projects.
- Cost recovery methods are largely dependent on general funds and grants.
- 40% indicated they will begin replacing systems in 2005.

SIEC and local government.
- Local government respondents requested resources for local government to use to help with identification of funding.
- The SIEC should be the thought leader for the state in communications technology, however NOT impose solutions.
- The state should take the lead in collaboration.

Other suggestions from respondents.
- The state should facilitate regional planning efforts
- The SIEC should benchmark best practices and share this information with local governments.
- Planning seems to be the single most important action to improve interoperability.
- The SIEC should be actively engaged in frequency allocation.
- The SIEC should promote state and regional planning.

Conclusions.

- The survey quantifies what was reported in forums and interviews.
- Survey results are consistent with what is being reported in other states.
- The survey helps identify gaps between current capabilities and required capabilities.
- The survey also helps provide requirements and a final system architecture.
- There were no surprises in the survey responses.

Next steps. The SIEC will use the survey results to move forward in interoperability planning.
- The survey results will be mined to determine:
    o Current system capabilities.
    o System needs.
    o Future system desired capabilities.
- The next deliverable will be a Capability and Needs Report that will:
    o Define system requirements (based on findings, interview and forum meetings).
    o Identify gaps between current system capabilities and required capabilities.